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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,769	03/09/2006	Makoto Numakawa	07A3825PCT	3001

7590 08/31/2009  
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EXAMINER
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EIDE, HEIDI MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3732

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/31/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/565,769	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NUMAKAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> HEIDI M. EIDE	<b>Art Unit</b> 3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 29, 2009 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 14 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 14 currently depends from coma 1, which has been canceled. It was assumed by the examiner that claim 14 is to depend from claim 9 for examination purposes.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claims 12 and 14, the recitation of positively claiming the handpiece is inconsistent with the preamble. The applicant should clarify

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what subject matter the claim is drawn to, i.e. either the subcombination of the maintenance apparatus alone or the combination of the maintenance apparatus and the handpiece. In claim 9 the applicant positively claims a supply nozzle in line 5 of the claim and then in line 6 of the claim, the applicant further claims a supply nozzle, however, it is unclear if applicant is trying to claim 2 supply nozzles or just one.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "the chucking structure" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the bearing" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the handpiece" in line 2 and 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the bearing" in line 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the chucking structure" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the handpiece" in lines 3-4 and 10-14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the bearing" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "said rotary tool" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim 14 recites the limitation "said chucking structure" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown 5,520,882.

Brown teaches a maintenance apparatus 30 for a medical handpiece 10 with a chucking structure for detachably chucking a holding rotary tool along an axis and a bearing for rotatably supporting the chucking structure along the axis (col. 3, II. 20-23, col. 5, II. 13-17) comprising a maintenance fluid supply nozzle fluidly connected to a second fluid supply, the design of the nozzle is capable of being detachable connected in the chucking structure in place of the rotary tool so that the maintenance fluid is fed through the nozzle into the chucking structure as illustrated in fig. 4. Brown does not specifically teach the device functioning as claimed, however, the nozzle connected to the fluid supply 30 is capable of being detachable connected to the chucking structure therefore the claimed limitations are met. Brown further teaches a first fluid supply 20 for feeding the maintenance fluid to the bearing of the handpiece as illustrated in fig. 2 (see abstract) and wherein the nozzle comprises an elongated nozzle having an outer diameter that is capable of being substantially equal to an outer diameter of a rotary tool

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and the elongated nozzle having one end portion capable of insertion into a chucking structure and another end portion being coupled to the second fluid supply.

Claims 9-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffman 5,165,503.

Hoffman teaches a maintenance apparatus comprising a maintenance fluid supply nozzle 248 capable of being fluidly connected to a second fluid supply, the supply nozzle being capable of being detachably connect in a chucking structure in place of a rotary tool so that a maintenance fluid is fed through the nozzle into the chucking structure. Hoffman further teaches a first fluid supply capable of feeding the maintenance fluid to a bearing of a handpiece (col. 6, ll. 17-21), a connector 52 which is designed to be detachable connect to a handpiece (fig. 2), the connector having a feeding passage 42 of the first fluid supply capable of feeding the maintenance fluid through the first feeding passage to a bearing of a handpiece and a feeding passage 55 of the second fluid supply capable of feeding the maintenance fluid through the nozzle of a chucking structure, wherein the connector has a recycling passage 56 which is capable of being detachably connected to a feeling passage of a handpiece and a handpiece having a recycling passage 18 which is capable of being detachably connected to the first feeding passage (col. 6, ll. 17-21, ll. 28-30), wherein when a handpiece is connected to the connector a maintenance fluid can be fed though the feeding passages of the connector and a handpiece to a bearing of a handpiece and then collected together with the maintenance fluid fed through the supply nozzle through the recycling passages of the connector and a handpiece. Hoffman further teaches the

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maintenance fluid supply nozzle comprising an elongated nozzle capable of having an outer diameter substantially equal to an outer diameter of a rotary tool, the elongated nozzle having an end portion capable for insertion into a chucking and another end portion capable of being coupled to a second fluid supply. Huffman does not specifically teach the apparatus functioning as claimed, however, the apparatus is capable of functioning as claimed, therefore the claimed limitations are met.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman 5,165,503 as applied to claims 9-12 above, and further in view of De Rocchis et al. 4,990,087 (De Rocchis).

Hoffman teaches the invention as substantially claimed and discussed above, however, does not specifically teach the nozzle having a hole for injecting the maintenance fluid in the form of a mist.

De Rocchis teaches the nozzle having a hole for injecting the maintenance fluid in the form of a mist (col. 3, ll. 38-41). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hoffman with the nozzle of De Rocchis in order to cover a larger area of the apparatus with the maintenance fluid and to conserve the fluid.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed June 29, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Brown does not teach the nozzle being detachably connected to the chucking structure, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEIDI M. EIDE whose telephone number is (571)270-3081. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached on 571-272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**Heidi Eide**  
**Examiner**  
**Art Unit 3732**

**/John J Wilson/**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 3732**

/Heidi M Eide/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3732

8/27/2009